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January 15, 2003

Dear Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I have recently been made aware of the legislative decisions that will be facing the Federal Communications Commission in the coming six months. While many feel that given the already complicated corporate media structure, that dealing with the possibility of loosening the vague and remote anti-monopoly regulations many be difficult, I feel that the F.C.C. *realistically*, only has one option. The current regulations exist as a part of a democratic and capitalist structure. Our nation was founded to preserve certain freedoms as sacrosanct. Among these freedoms were Freedom of Speech, and Freedom of Thought. Our government has never been able to tell its citizens what to say, who to believe, or what to think. That is not something that should change now; to remove the limited regulations that currently exist, in order to guarantee the sanctity of that freedom would be to remove the last hanging shred of freedom for the press from our media. The citizens of The United States should be guaranteed the right to unbiased media, information composed by multiple sources, reflective of the multi-lateral diversity that permeates every part of our society. Education is also an important part of democratic discourse in The United States, and to allow all news media, potentially, to come from one source, we prevent our children from learning to choose between ideas and values, and we teach them obedience rather than independence. The spirit of a child should be nurtured by education; creativity and imagination should be welcomed in every classroom, not shed at its doorway. If the danger to democracy that this proposed legislation poses does not compel you, then consider an economic argument. The United States has always been, since 1776 when Adam Smith published *The Wealth of Nations* and our Declaration of Independence was written, a successful capitalist nation. Part of our economic philosophy maintains that competition is **necessary** to preserve the integrity and purity of the capitalist market in order to ensure that the consumer receives the highest quality product. By altering the regulations in place already, the regulations designed to ensure media competition, the F.C.C. would be harming those it was designed to protect, the American Citizen. In order to guarantee responsible journalism, to ensure that local, regional, national and international journalists and media corporations are treated with the respect they deserve as information-bearing entities, we owe it to ourselves, and those who will learn our history **through** the filters of these newspapers, radio programs, and news programs-future generations, to maintain the anti-monopoly legislation that already exists. We owe it to this nation, to the freedoms it was formed to uphold, to maintain whatever is **left** of our journalistic integrity by preserving regulations which prevent any one corporation or media giant from controlling enough of **our** air waves to pander news as propaganda. We are climbing a slippery slope, and if we don't preserve this legislation, we just might fall.

Sincerely,

Jashe R. Shangri

A Student and Citizen

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